

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/510,135

Examiner

Lars A. Olson

Applicant(s)

PEEREBOOM ET AL.

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received from the applicant on June 22, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Reasons for Allowance

1. An amendment was received from the applicant on June 22, 2007.
2. Claims 1-10 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The turret-moored vessel as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of a vessel that is comprised of a hull, a cylindrical shaft with a shaft wall, a cylindrical turret with a turret wall that is rotatably mounted within said shaft by means of at least one bearing, anchoring lines that attach to a lower part of said turret, a water intake pipe that extends from below sea level through said turret to an opening in said turret wall, an annular reservoir that extends around said turret wall and is in fluid communication with said opening, and a second water duct that connects said water reservoir to a cooling unit.
4. The prior art as disclosed by Eide et al. (US 6,845,727) shows the use of a turret-moored vessel that is comprised of a hull, a cylindrical turret that is mounted within a cylindrical shaft within said hull, anchoring lines that attach to a lower part of said turret, water intake pipes that extend from below sea level through said turret wall and a surrounding annulus to a pair of wing tanks located on either side of said shaft, and additional ducting that carries cooled water from said wing tanks to a process for the production of hydrocarbons. However, Eide et al. does not disclose that said ducting leading from said wing tanks carries water to a cooling unit. Eide et al. indicates that the water received from the intake pipes is already cooled, and thus does not need to

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be directed to a cooling unit. Therefore, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of a turret-moored vessel that is comprised of a hull, a cylindrical shaft with a shaft wall, a cylindrical turret with a turret wall that is rotatably mounted within said shaft by means of at least one bearing, anchoring lines that attach to a lower part of said turret, a water intake pipe that extends from below sea level through said turret to an opening in said turret wall, an annular reservoir that extends around said turret wall and is in fluid communication with said opening, and a second water duct that connects said water reservoir to a cooling unit.

Conclusion

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6685.

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July 9, 2007

LARS A. OLSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER



7/9/07